5-320.2

MONTROSE CHEMICAL CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

JUL 17 1956

July 16, 1956

Mr. A. M. Rawn, Chief Engineer
and General Manager
County Sanitation Districts
of Los Angeles County
2020 Beverly Boulevard
Los Angeles 57, California

Re: Your File 5-320.20.10

Dear Mr. Rawn:

Currently the Montrose Chemical Corporation of California treats its industrial waste on a batch basis to avoid any discharge of acid containing effluents into the County Sanitation Districts' sewer line. When the tanks are nearly full, an operator samples the waste and determines its pH with sensitive pH paper. If it is not above 7, he adds caustic solution until it is above 7. These tanks are air agitated and mixing is very rapid. When the operator determines that the pH is above 7, he takes a sample and opens the drain valve. The samples are run in the laboratory as a check against the operator's ability to determine and correct the pH. Normally the waste effluent from the plant is slightly alkaline and no correction is required. However, acid can leak from pumps, broken lines, and other emergencies, and it is occasionally necessary to add considerable caustic.

Unfortunately, this system depends on human operators, and is subject to the usual failings of such operations. We have already installed two expensive automatic pH measuring and controlling systems, neither of which would give reliable monitorring or control. Apparently these particular effluents are such that they quickly poison the glass electrodes common to the electrometric systems. At the present time we have a development project going into the pilot plant stage which gives considerable promise of shortly providing accurate, reliable measurements and automatic control over the pH of our waste effluents. We are attempting to quickly develop the measuring and recording section, which will then give us much better control over the manual operation.